

year-long impasse over renewing the Higher Education Act.

Madam Speaker, calling for deep cuts in access to higher education while advocating a competitive workforce is a fundamentally incompatible strategy. Where Congress dropped the ball, colleges are taking the lead in providing tuition assistance to disadvantaged students through matching grants and need-based discounts. We should be encouraging more universities to follow suit, instead of discouraging colleges and aspiring students through misguided cutbacks.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to keep this in mind as we take up the budget resolution in the weeks ahead.

WINNING THE WAR AGAINST METHAMPHETAMINE ABUSE

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, last night, Congress voted to give our law enforcement officials a strong tool to fight the epidemic of methamphetamine abuse. I was proud to support this legislation because I have seen the havoc meth can wreak on our children, our families, and our communities.

The 11th District of Georgia, which I represent, has felt the full consequences of this growing epidemic. In fact, one of the largest methamphetamine busts recently took place in metropolitan Atlanta. We cannot ignore what has happened in the basements and tool sheds of suburban America, because methamphetamine abuse is threatening the health and safety of all of our citizens.

As a physician, I know the harm it causes the human body, and as a parent and a grandparent, I know the devastation it can bring to our children and to our families.

Congress has taken a bold step forward toward fighting and winning the war on methamphetamine abuse. When President Bush signs this legislation into law, we will have truly made a difference in the safety of our communities.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in praising this hugely important legislation.

BUSH BUDGET AND HEALTH CARE: NO SOLUTIONS, ONLY MORE PROBLEMS

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, the President's budget is bad policy and bad medicine for Americans. It fails to reduce the costs of health care and prescription drugs and it fails to reduce the number of uninsured Americans. It is simply unacceptable that the President continues to ignore these

pressing needs, but it is inexcusable that the President plans to make our health care problems even worse.

The President would inflict more pain on American seniors by slashing Medicare funding. His budget cuts \$36 billion from Medicare payments to hospitals and home health providers over the next 5 years, which would severely limit seniors' access to much-needed health care and would force some seniors to pay more in premiums for that health care.

The Bush budget also cuts vital funding for medical research, research needed to discover health care cures for the future. Although the National Institutes of Health is responsible for much of our country's medical advancements, the President proposes real cuts in that budget for the second year in a row.

This is not a blueprint for fixing America's health care system. Instead, it can destroy it. Congress should reject this blueprint.

INTRODUCING CONTRACT WITH AMERICA RENEWED

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, with record deficits and a national debt at nearly \$8 trillion, it is time to level with the American people: we are not living within our means here in Washington, D.C.

Today, House conservatives will unveil our budget proposal for 2007. We are calling it Contract With America Renewed. Contract With America Renewed is a balanced Federal budget based on the budget passed by the House of Representatives in 1995 and was part of the Contract With America.

Now, while not every Member of the Republican Study Committee endorses every proposal in this budget, House conservatives believe that this Republican Congress should return to our 1994 roots of fiscal discipline and reform.

By enacting the Contract With America Renewed, we will balance the Federal budget, cut wasteful government spending, end outdated programs, while we protect Social Security and the President's tax cuts and provide for the national defense. We will do all of this while we actually reform entitlements to meet those obligations for future generations.

The American people know that unbridled government spending threatens our future and our freedom. They long for leaders who tell it like it is and are honest about the choices we face. The men and women of the Republican Study Committee who will unveil the Contract With America Renewed today are such leaders and these are such choices.

PORT SECURITY: ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF A WASHINGTON REPUBLICAN COVERUP

(Mr. CLEAVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, the Bush-Dubai ports contract was a bad deal for national security when it involved six American seaports. Now it turns out the company would operate 22 U.S. ports far more than the President said were included in the deal.

My friends, America is not secure. The majority of the voters in my home district in Missouri are appalled. They don't understand why U.S. companies cannot operate all the ports.

Just yesterday, Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff said that handing over American ports to a Dubai company would give the U.S. a better handle on security at U.S. terminal operations. I don't know the Secretary personally, so I don't know whether or not he was serious. I do know this: American security should not be outsourced.

The only way to increase port security at our docks is to actually screen every single container that comes into the U.S. Democrats support fully funding port security to make sure that terrorists are not allowed to smuggle dangerous chemicals into our Nation. Only 6 percent of the cargo that is coming into the ports is screened. America can do better.

COMMEMORATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate International Women's Day. As cochair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, I am proud to be a part of a daylong shadow program working side by side with Iraqi women and members of the Transnational Assembly. In fact, my guest is here in the Chamber, Dr. Faiza Babakhan, who represents the National Assembly.

In just 11 days, we will mark the third anniversary of the United States' invasion of Iraq. While U.S. involvement in Iraq in the past 3 years has caused much controversy in our country, we can all agree that increasing Iraqi women's rights and political representation should be a priority.

Through the continued collaboration of American and Iraqi women in government, we can advance women's rights and women's issues around the world. But today we must also acknowledge the violence and human rights issues that affect women in places like Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, and in Guatemala where murders of women have gone unpunished for many years.